## OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



## **ASK AN EXPERT/LIVE WEBINARS**

Join us on October 19th or 29th for an
Ask a Learning A-Z Expert webinar. During
this 1 hour live session, a Learning A-Z
expert will be available to answer any
questions about the resources and features
on Reading A-Z, Raz Plus and Raz Kids.

Click here for a list of Learning A-Z's live webinars including Ask an Expert.

Want to learn more about Foundational Skills? Join us on October 13th or 27th:

Exploring Raz-Plus and Reading A-Z
Foundational Skills Resources



Please contact your National PD Manager to schedule a virtual meeting for any of the Learning A-Z products.

Linda Gordon M.Ed.
National Consultant,
Professional Learning Services
linda.gordon@learninga-z.com



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ask An Expert/Live Webinars - p. 1

Professional Development - p. 1

Resource Calendar - p. 1

**New and Noteworthy for:** 

Raz Plus - pp. 2, 3

Kids A-Z - p. 4

Science A-Z - p. 5

Breakroom - p 6.

## **RESOURCE CALENDAR**

10/10: World Mental Health Day

10/11: Columbus Day (observed)

Indigenous Peoples' Day

10/12: Farmers Day

10/26: National Pumpkin Day

10/31: Halloween



## **REVISED AND UPDATED**

Our Content Audit continues! Our resources should reflect the identities and communities of our readers and ensure students see themselves positively represented in our content. For the October release, these titles have been updated:

#### **LEVELED BOOKS**

- Martin Luther King Jr. [M, P, S]
- Living in Deserts [P, T, W] (formerly Desert People)
- The Paralympics [Z, Z1, Z2] (NEW replacing Adaptative Athletes [Z, Z1, Z2]
- Community Government [K]
- · Color Blindness [Q, T, W]
- · Groundwater [S, V, Y]
- Comic Cons [X, Z1, Z2]
- Jonas Salk [Y, Z1, Z2]
- · Summer Olympic Events [H, K, Q]
- Hugs [E]
- Mexico [J, T, Y]
- Famous Hispanic Americans [X]
- Samuel de Champlain, Father of New France [Y]







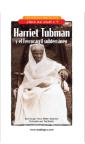




















#### **SPANISH TRANSLATIONS**

- Many Faces of Autism [X]
- · Riding with Rosa Parks [J]
- · Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad [S]

#### FRENCH TRANSLATIONS

Firefighters [F, J, M]

#### SHARED READING

Second-Place Steven

#### **CLOSE READING PACK PASSAGES**

- Native American Cultures
- · What Makes a Good U.S. President



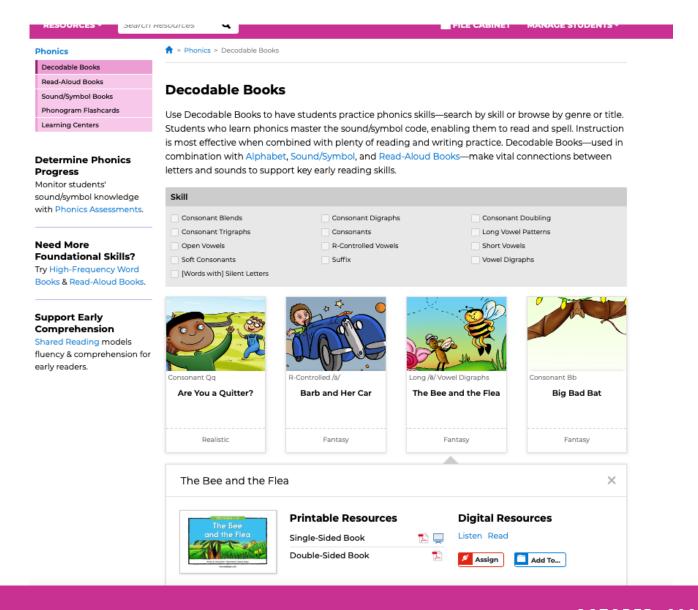
## **DECODABLE BOOKS**

## The **Decodable Books** page is back!

Decodable books help beginning readers with their automaticity or fluency of word recognition, specifically in phonics patterns and high frequency words.

In June of last year we redesigned our Decodables Books page to provide systematic, research-based phonics instruction for teaching and practicing letter-sound correspondences with Phonics Lessons and Decodable Texts.

However, we heard from the market there was still a need for **a simple view of just the Decodable book titles.** For the October release we've resurrected that area, with some nice improvements that offer up the book resources without having to navigate off the page.



#### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND MOTIVATION

Student engagement and motivation is supercharged when we attach learning to a purpose – particularly valuable in distance learning environments.

Last spring's **Learning A-Z/UNICEF Kid Power program** saw students around the world make a combined total of 386,570 donations, utilizing an incredible 3.28 billion stars! The classroom giving the most donations was awarded the opportunity to co-author a book with Learning A-Z.

And the winning classroom is the class of Rachel Paterson at **Kori Nevers Gakuin Elementary School in Japan**! We're proud to congratulate Rachel Paterson's students and their incredible contributions during our Learning A-Z and UNICEF Kid Power Classroom Challenge!

Rachel's classroom has helped author a book for Learning A-Z entitled <u>We Are Marvelous!</u>
Her students composed a text reflecting on the positive attributes they see in each other.
This month the book has been included in Raz-Plus as additional content under Meaningful Conversations, our new resource to help teachers facilitate challenging conversations in their classrooms.





## **SCIENCE IN THE NEWS**

## Click here for a complimentary copy.

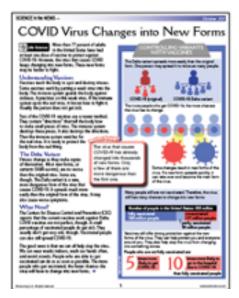
For children to become competent lifelong learners, they must learn how to use nonfiction materials to expand their knowledge base, solve problems, and make decisions. Real-life issues and events capture students' interest and allow them to relate to what's happening in their community, their country, and the world.

**Science A-Z's** <u>Science in the News</u> series builds on that student engagement with a new October issue containing articles like:

- · Hanging out with Jumping Spiders
- COVID Virus Changes into New Forms
- · Beavers Build Better Deserts
- Make Your Own Microscope . . . With LEGOS!









# Breakroom



The Importance of Teaching Foundational Skills



The Art and Science of Reading Instruction



Raz-Plus Resources to Support Scarborough's Reading Rope